

Art Workouts Mycellium Workshops



Fungus Among Us workshop at FRESH FESTIVAL 2015, Mark McBeth



Margit Galanter

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FUNGUS AMONG US: Mycoremedial-Based Performance, Word,
and Dance Experiments

Mycelium is the rich complex root system that
underlies mushroom fruit. Incredibly sensitive, it is
an interconnected, mobile, shapeshifting, underground,
sentient, & communicative realm. Mycelia breathe in
oxygen and breathe out CO2-- more like us than any
other creature. What can we learn from them, in
art-making? In this laboratory, we will try out some





physical experiments prompted by the phenomena of this brilliant beast and some artists who take inspiration in the fungus among us.

The workshop co-taught by Abby Crain, Margit Galanter, and inspired by the research of mycologists and the work of local artisans and writers emji spiro and Sophia Wang





Writing from Sophia:

"Fungal mycelial networks are everywhere: literally under our feet, threading through the soil of the earth, up through the trunks of trees, active at every stage of any ecosystem's life cycle, on all of our continents. Mycelium serves as the root system for mushrooms: an underground freeway for nutrients and minerals that fungi make available and mobile through their transformation of all organic matter. If it grew under the sun, a fungus can eat it. Following any major natural disaster, mycelial networks are the earth's first line of defense: breaking down carbon-based waste, as in oil spills, and sequestering and rendering toxic elements inert, as in radioactive contaminations. Mycelial architectures have always supported and nourished our natural environments, and we are now discovering ways that mycelium can support





our built environments too. The mycocultural
revolution is here, and the future is fungal."

Excerpt from almost any shit will do for Fresh
festival

emji spero

"Hello, my name is Emji Spero. I recently finished a
book of poetry called almost any shit will do. The
process of writing this piece involved using found
text from research on mycelial studies to talk about
my experiences participating in direct action and
radical social movements. For this poem I replaced the
word "mushroom" with the phrase "the individual" and
the word "mycelium" with the phrase "the movement" as
a way of moving across contexts. Okay, then.





an individual

is actually only part of the organism—

the main part of an individual is underground or

running through dead wood,

consists of a mat of hairlike fibers called

the movement

the movement

is present even

when there are no

individuals

some individuals have movements

that stretch for miles and miles





*

generally, the movement, or what in scientific
language is called the movement, is supposed to be
analogous to seed, or something analogous to roots,
spine, the hair of ordinary individuals, the visible
part or spine, head and hair, of the individual being,
in fact, blooming

chance or

a concurrence of

circumstances

a knowledge of the anatomy and life-





history of the individual is not necessary and
is not familiar.

we can see them clearly enough

can see in what matter they are born and fixed
but of the history of their lives, from the time
they fall from the surfaces on which
they were born

the young individuals vigorously
pushing up from the mass of
the delicate blooming which they
have given rise to in culture
or decaying shit, we know





nothing.

any body could carry it out.

*

if it is possible and we know

it is not only possible for individuals

to bloom in apartments a few yards long

and ten or eighteen feet wide it is clear

there can be no difficulty about

their blooming in abundance

given the materials and some position

in which to carry out culture, and both these





things are surely to be had almost in any place

there is a stable rest

any body could carry it out.

any empty loft or other covered

structure

frequently present an opportunity

for blooming

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one of the best movements i have ever seen





was blooming in a dry and unused house

culture in sheds, cafes, tents,

port-o-potties, and all enclosed structures

other than the individual

in nearly every country,

in numerous urban

landscapes,

in fact,

in most places,

opportunities

of finding

the movement

occurs.





its threads

have the odor

of individuals

it is

therefore,

very easily

recognized.

*

i have seen excellent movements bloom on the floor

in old leaning houses,





in small places where every foot of space is likely
to be occupied,

it is not easy to carry out

i have seen fine individuals gathered,

it may seem ridiculous

to say

give the city a thorough soaking of
stable urine, at the temperature of 86
degrees, using the urine in proportions
of one part urine to five parts debt,
downing a wineglassfull for each, then





cover the city with fresh sod, cover
with tents.

*

the movement is the true individual bloom
and permeates public spaces, shit or
other material in which it may—

the movement is represented by a delicate
thin network of thinnish threads which traverse
the city or shit.

under favorable circumstances it blooms and
spreads rapidly and in time produces individuals,





as we call them.

the individuals bear
myriads of ideas which are
analogous to seeds, and these ideas
become diffused
in the atmosphere and
fall upon the ground.

by propagation

by division

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the simplest mathematical models of
swarms generally represent individuals (n.)
as following three rules:

- 1 move in the same direction as your neighbors;
- 2 remain close to your neighbors;
- 3 avoid collisions with your neighbors;

